

Remarks

Following Examiner's suggestion, page 10, line 24 of the specification has been amended to correct an informality.

Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10, 12, 14-21, 23 and 26 under §102(b), and indicated claims 9, 11, 13, 22 and 24-25 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 2-3, 8-12, 16, and 22-23 and 25-26 have been canceled, without prejudice, in order to expedite the allowance of the case. Applicants reserve the right to file continuing applications to further prosecute one or more of these claims.

Claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, and 17-21 remain pending in this application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claims 2, 8 and 9. Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate limitations in claims 16 and 25. Both claims 1 and 15 are now in allowable form.

Claims 13 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Thus, both claims 13 and 24 are also allowable.

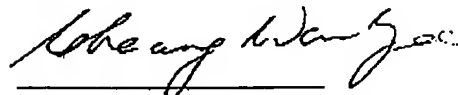
Other claims have been amended to correct for claim dependencies, and claim 5 has further been amended to correct for an informality. Since claims 4-7 and 14 depend from the amended claim 1, and claims 17-21 depend from the amended claim 15, these dependent claims are therefore also allowable.

Since all pending claims are in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the above application be passed to issuance at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic interview. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 09-0468.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Date: October 3, 2005

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